



WENDY KOTORYNSKI

Thank you for your consideration of me as a candidate.

I decided to put my name forward in this election because it feels like we are currently at an important juncture. Not all the problems we're facing are unique to our community; we're feeling the effects from the global issue of climate change and income inequality, the national inflation and housing affordability crisis, and the local effects of development on the ecological health of our island. But no matter the breadth of the issue, the solutions we choose to pursue have to be tailored to the needs of our community, both socially and environmentally.

I offer you moderate, deliberative, data-based and compassionate representation for a healthy community. I have over 30 years of professional experience as a Social Worker, nonprofit Executive Director, and Nonprofit Organization, Leadership and Fundraising Consultant. During these years I have worked both in and with government agencies. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree (English and Psychology), a Bachelor of Education degree, a Bachelor of Social Work Degree and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Some of my professional experience includes having been a social worker first in Halifax, and then for eight years focused mostly on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. From there I moved to the Los Angeles area and was Executive Director of the largest animal welfare nonprofit organization that also served low income citizens (working with the office of the Mayor of Los Angeles in opening a high-profile third location) and also served as the Executive Director at a Domestic Violence Agency with numerous governmental and community organization partnerships.

I've worked collaboratively throughout my career both as an employee and a volunteer with other non-profit agencies, city/state/federal governments, and with very diverse groups of citizens. These experiences brought me:

- empathy, optimism and an easy-going attitude;
- an ability to hear and learn from others' diverse perspectives;
- an ability to work in high profile public arenas;
- high level leadership and management skills;
- financial and budget management skills;
- strategic planning skills; evaluation skills;
- a very strong work ethic;
- an understanding of the complexity of most issues and that solutions are often not easy but can be found;
- an understanding of the need for a collaborative approach to successfully solve problems;
- and an ability to be patient, thorough and inclusive in decision-making.

I believe these skills and attributes will be important and helpful to have in governance and leadership roles as we try to solve problems our community is facing.

If elected, I would strive to ensure that we are thoughtful, patient and fully consultative with the public and with Snuneymuxw First Nation, that we work towards excellence in governance standards and practices for the Islands Trust, that we work together to further define the mandate of the Islands Trust so the interpretation is clear, that we don't merely suspend bylaws, but rather work methodically to change bylaws to reflect the intent of the community after a proper consultation process, and that every decision made prioritizes the "preserve and protect" mandate of the Islands Trust as we balance the needs of both people and the land they live on.

We have a responsibility to the land, the wildlife, and future generations to be measured and to prioritize environmental concerns, especially when we are looking at problems which necessarily involve compromise, and we must ensure that our solutions are not serving as band-aid fixes which may create other harms in their enactment. Good solutions address and solve the real problems in their implementation for many years to come.

Ultimately, it comes down to balance. The problems are not small, and while not all of them can be solved at a local level, we're going to need to bring a balance of creativity and judiciousness to bear if we want to tackle the housing issue without causing long term harm to the island's ecosystem and character.

When elections come around, people get to choose who they think will make decisions that will align most closely with their vision for the future. I don't think any candidate can honestly say that they can quickly solve the biggest problems we're facing as the causes are complex, outside of local government control, and influenced by larger governmental and global forces. But I can say that I will work collaboratively, open-

mindedly and in a thorough, calm and thoughtful manner within the Islands Trust and other levels of government, and undertake a robust public and First Nations consultation process to develop some specific policies and bylaws to ease some of the stresses in our community while keeping the long-term environmental health of the island at the forefront.

Please vote, and whoever you vote for, I hope it will be a choice that is not only in your own best interests and those of our current community, but that you also think of the future health of our island for the benefit of those who aren't residents but love to visit, and for future generations.

I'd love to hear from you about the issues and concerns you have. Please contact me with any questions or comments via my website or by email.

Web: <https://www.wendykotorynski.com>

Email: wendykotorynski.gabriola@gmail.com